

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Intelligence Community Staff

DCI/IC 75-3886

The Honorable Frank Church
Chairman
Select Committee to Study Governmental
Operations with Respect to Intelligence
Activities
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In view of the public attention which has already been focused on certain activities of U. S. intelligence organizations, I am concerned that Congress, in an effort to ensure that the constitutional rights of U. S. citizens are not put at risk in the future, might consider legislation which would restrict certain intelligence activities in a way in which the Congress might not intend. As a matter of urgency prior to the drafting of any such legislation, I encourage the Committee's earnest consideration of the Central Intelligence Agency mission and the impact which any new legislation would have upon the effective functioning of the Agency.

Enclosed is a listing of 43 activities of the CIA within the United States or involving U.S. citizens which I consider can be labelled "core interests" or "core activities." In most cases these activities are presently legal; in some few instances, legislation would be required in order to clearly legitimate the activity.

All of these activities have been identified as being of importance if the CIA is to accomplish its mission.

I fully recognize that there is a legitimate need to reassure the American people that their rights are being fully protected. There is a concomitant need to reassure Americans that their intelligence organizations retain the ability to carry out their assigned responsibilities.

Respectfully,

W. E. Colby

Enclosure:

As stated

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